

CONSTITUTIONAL RULES

OF THE SOCIETY OF

UNITARIAN CHRISTIANS,

AT

PHILADELPHIA,

AGREED UPON,

(Having been previously read and proposed for consideration)

AT A MEETING OF THE SOCIETY,

Held at the University of Pennsylvania, on Sunday the 28th of
August, 1796.

PHILADELPHIA:

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1796.



Constitutional Rules.

RULE I.

IN the meetings of this Society for Religious Purposes, worship shall be paid to the ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL, and to Him only.

II.

The doors of their place of meeting shall be open to all persons whatsoever, neither shall any of decent behaviour be excluded from participating in the celebration of the Lord's Supper; but none can be considered as permanent members, or entitled to a vote in any proceedings of the Society, who do not subscribe the Constitutional Rules.

III.

Until some other plan shall be adopted, service shall be performed by Members of the Society chosen as hereinafter mentioned.

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From the list of names of those who have already performed the service, six persons (or any other number which may be agreed upon) shall be chosen by ballot to do that duty for six calendar months; notice of such election being given on the Sunday preceding.

IV.

Every new member of the Society, having first subscribed the Constitutional Rules, may enter his name upon the List of Readers; and when the number so chosen as above mentioned shall have completed their term of duty, the new Members on the List of Readers shall perform the service in turn, before a new election is made.

V.

The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated the first Sunday in every other month, or at any other time which may be agreed upon by the Society; notice being given thereof on the preceding Sunday.

VI.

Collections shall be made the last Sunday in every month, to defray the necessary expences of the Society; notice being given thereof on the preceding Sunday.

VII.

A Treasurer and a Secretary shall be appointed, at the same time, and in the same manner, as the Readers are chosen.

VIII.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive the monies arising from the collections, and to keep accounts of the expenditure thereof, which accounts shall be made up and balanced previous to every new election.

IX.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep records of the proceedings of the Society; to prepare lists for the election of Readers, Treasurer and Secretary; and to place in some conspicuous situation a list of the Readers when chosen, in the order in which they are to do duty.

X.

If any person, having entered his name as a Member of this Society, shall be guilty of any flagrant breach of Christian Morality, or Decency; or shall live in the habitual practice of gross and scandalous vice, it shall be competent for the Society to decide upon his expulsion, and the proceedings thereupon shall be regulated in the following manner:

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Any Member who is of opinion that such expulsion ought to take place, shall deliver a note to that effect, signed with his name, to the Secretary, desiring that a special meeting may be called to take the matter into consideration. Notice shall be given on the first Sunday after this request shall have been made, and the time, place, and general purpose of the meeting mentioned. Notice shall also be given to the person complained of to attend at such meeting. The matter in question shall be investigated, and afterwards determined in the way of ballot; and, if the result be the expulsion of the party, his name shall be immediately erased from the list of Members; and if he be not present, notice shall be given him by the Secretary of the event of the proceedings.

XI.

On a requisition of any three Members to the Secretary, he shall call a meeting of this Society, to confer upon any matter which they may think it necessary to propose for discussion; and if it appear to require the appointment of a Committee, such Committee shall be chosen, either *ariva voce* or by ballot, as may be thought expedient, and shall be dissolved as soon as the business for which it was appointed is completed.

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XII.

This Constitution shall be subject to whatever alterations and amendments three-fourths of the Members of the Society may judge expedient, at any public meeting called for the purpose ; one month's previous notice being given.

THE END.



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